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Letter dated 21 July 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 July 2015 from Smaïl Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, conveying the communiqué adopted at the 521st meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, held on 30 June 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its attachment to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, I am forwarding herewith the communiqué adopted at the 521st meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, held on 30 June 2015 to consider the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Joint African Union-United Nations mission to review the benchmarks for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and to make recommendations on the way forward (see enclosure). The joint mission, carried out from 14 to 25 April 2015, was conducted pursuant to the relevant decisions of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council.

I would like to seize this opportunity to convey my appreciation to you, in particular, and to the United Nations Secretariat, in general, for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration which characterized the review process throughout its conduct. This spirit of cooperation is yet another illustration of the close partnership that binds the African Union and the United Nations.

The joint mission concluded that, in view of the continuing threat posed by Al-Shabaab to both Somalia and the rest of the region, the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation at present would be a high-risk option. The Peace and Security Council endorsed the recommendations made by the joint mission in order for AMISOM to implement, over the next 18 months, a security strategy aimed at creating a more conducive environment for the pursuit of the political process, in particular:

(i) The extension of the surge in AMISOM strength and of the non-lethal support package for the Somali National Army until the end of 2016, as authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2124 (2013);

(ii) The gradual, structured and targeted reconfiguration, within the authorized ceiling, of AMISOM uniformed personnel, including: (a) the enhancement of the AMISOM police component; (b) the deployment of the requisite capabilities, such as quick-reaction and special forces, to enable AMISOM to become more agile and to facilitate cross-sectoral operations; and (c) the streamlining of AMISOM command and control under the overall direction of the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission and Head of Mission;

(iii) The provision of more effective and flexible logistical support through the enhancement of the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA) in order to address the gaps identified in the provision of logistical support to front-line AMISOM and Somali National Army troops;

(iv) The extension to the Puntland forces of the non-lethal support provided by UNSOA to the Somali National Army.

With respect to the provision of more effective logistical support to front-line AMISOM and Somali National Army troops, as highlighted above, I would like to stress the critical importance of the forthcoming UNSOA review. We should take advantage of this opportunity to thoroughly assess the support extended so far to AMISOM and examine how we can best enhance the effectiveness of UNSOA, bearing in mind the specificity of AMISOM operations and the challenging

environment in which the Mission is operating. Let me seize this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation to UNSOA and its leadership for its sustained efforts and commitment in the discharge of its mandate. We look forward to continued cooperation with it in our joint efforts towards the stabilization of Somalia.

Allow me to seize this opportunity to reiterate the African Union's deep appreciation to the United Nations Security Council and to you personally for your continued support for the efforts of AMISOM. The tremendous strides made over the past few years would not have been possible without the support of the United Nations and other partners and the innovative partnership our two institutions have built.

I have no doubt that, as we enter a new phase in our joint efforts in Somalia, we can count on United Nations support.

I would be most grateful if the present letter and its enclosure were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Smaïl **Chergui**
Commissioner, Peace and Security

Enclosure

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 521st meeting, held on 30 June 2015, adopted the following decision on the joint African Union-United Nations mission to review the benchmarks for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation and assess the operations of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the joint African Union-United Nations mission to review the benchmarks for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation and assess AMISOM operations (PSC/PR/2.(DXXI)), as well as of the statement made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security and the briefing given by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia and Head of AMISOM. Council **also takes note** of the statements made by the representative of Ethiopia, on behalf of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the representatives of the European Union, the League of Arab States and the United Nations, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as members of the United Nations Security Council, and Italy as co-Chair of the IGAD Partners Forum;

2. **Welcomes** the significant progress made in Somalia on both the political and security fronts. In particular, Council **notes with satisfaction** the gains made on the ground thanks to the efforts of AMISOM and the Somali National Army. Council **pays tribute** to the AMISOM and the Somali National Army personnel for their commitment and courage;

3. **Stresses the need** for continued efforts by the Federal Government of Somalia and the other Somali stakeholders for further reconciliation, and **encourages** them to intensify these efforts in order to facilitate the successful completion of the political process, notably with respect to federalism and the formation of regional states, the constitutional referendum and the elections planned for 2016;

4. **Notes with deep concern** that, in spite of the progress made on the ground, Al-Shabaab continues to pose a serious threat, both in Somalia and in the rest of the region, and to carry out attacks against the Federal Government of Somalia and its security forces, AMISOM, the United Nations and civilians, with a view to spreading terror and disrupting the political process;

5. **Strongly condemns** the terrorist attacks recently perpetrated by Al-Shabaab against AMISOM personnel, including against Ethiopian and Burundian soldiers on 11 and 26 June 2015, respectively, in Jameco, in the Bay region, and in Leego, Lower Shabelle, as well as the targeted assassinations of Somali officials and politicians and civilians. Council **expresses its solidarity** with the Government and people of Somalia, as well as its deep appreciation to the countries contributing troops and police to AMISOM for their commitment and the sacrifices made;

6. **Reiterates** the African Union's deep appreciation to the United Nations, the European Union and its member States, the United States of America and the international community as a whole for their support to AMISOM, as well as for

their commitment towards the promotion of peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia;

7. **Stresses the need** for continued efforts to further degrade the capabilities of Al-Shabaab and, in this regard, **looks forward** to the convening of the 2nd meeting of the heads of intelligence and security services of the member countries of the East African Community and of IGAD, scheduled to be held in Kampala on 14 and 15 July 2015, as part of the Djibouti Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation in East Africa, which, among other issues, will discuss ways and means of enhancing security cooperation in the fight against Al-Shabaab;

8. **Recalls** resolution 2124 (2013) adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 12 November 2013, authorizing the African Union to increase the strength of AMISOM to a maximum of 22,126 uniformed personnel and requesting the United Nations Secretary-General to keep the situation in Somalia under continuous review, including progress being made against the benchmarks for the potential deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation and the handover of security responsibilities to the national authorities;

9. **Further recalls** the communiqué (PSC/PR/COMM.(CDLXII).Rev.1) adopted at its 462nd meeting, held on 16 October 2014, requesting the Commission to undertake, in close coordination with the United Nations Secretariat, a joint review of AMISOM, especially the implementation of the Mission's concept of operations, with a view to enhancing the planning and effectiveness of the joint operations of the Somali National Army and AMISOM, as well as United Nations Security Council resolution 2182 (2014) adopted on 24 October 2014, requesting the Secretary-General to jointly review with the African Union the impact of the temporary surge in AMISOM strength authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2124 (2013) and to set out recommendations on the next steps in AMISOM operations by 30 May 2015, taking into due consideration the political situation in Somalia;

10. **Commends** the African Union and the United Nations for conducting a joint mission to Somalia from 14 to 25 April 2015 to review the benchmarks for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation and assess AMISOM, and **underlines** that this exercise is a further illustration of the close partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, and offers useful lessons that could be applied in other situations of common interest;

11. **Takes note** of the findings of the mission, in particular with respect to the continuing threat posed by Al-Shabaab to both Somalia and the rest of the region, and that, consequently, the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation at present would continue to be a high-risk option;

12. **Endorses** the recommendations made by the joint mission in order for AMISOM to implement, over the next 18 months, a security strategy aimed at creating a more conducive environment for the pursuit of the political process, in particular:

(i) The extension of the surge in AMISOM strength and of the non-lethal support package for the Somali National Army until the end of 2016, as authorized by Security Council resolution 2124 (2013);

(ii) The gradual, structured and targeted reconfiguration, within the authorized ceiling, of AMISOM uniformed personnel, including: (a) the enhancement of the AMISOM police component; (b) the deployment of requisite capabilities, such as quick-reaction and special forces, to enable AMISOM to become more agile and to facilitate cross-sectoral operations; and (c) the streamlining of AMISOM command and control under the overall direction of the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission and Head of Mission;

(iii) The provision of a more effective and flexible logistical support through the enhancement of the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA), in order to address the gaps identified in the provision of logistical support to front-line AMISOM and Somali National Army troops;

(iv) The extension to the Puntland forces of the non-lethal support provided by UNSOA to the Somali National Army;

13. **Requests** the Commission, working closely with the Federal Government of Somalia, the troop- and police-contributing countries, the United Nations and other relevant international partners, to revise the AMISOM concept of operations in order to take into account the findings and recommendations of the joint mission;

14. **Urges** the United Nations Security Council to consider, as early as possible, the report of the joint mission and to endorse its recommendations in order to pave the way for their speedy and effective implementation;

15. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary steps to effectively follow up on the relevant provisions of this communiqué, including by transmitting it to the United Nations Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council, as well as to other African Union partners;

16. **Calls on** the international community to provide enhanced support to the Federal Government of Somalia and its institutions in order to consolidate the gains made and facilitate the completion of the political process. In this regard, Council **looks forward** to the holding of the High-level Partnership Forum in Mogadishu on 29 and 30 July 2015;

17. **Also calls on** the international community to extend the necessary humanitarian assistance to the needy populations in Somalia, bearing in mind that the humanitarian appeal for 2015 is insufficiently funded;

18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.